LOS ALTOS HILLS CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIII March 1999

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 6, Saturday, Town Clean Up Day - Info: 961-8090

March 27, Saturday, Easter Egg Hunt and Festivities. Los Altos Village Association, Downtown 10 - 12 Noon. Children's Program follows event. Info: 949-5282

March 27, Saturday, Yard Waste Collection at Foothill College

April 11- May 28, Art Exhibition, Anna Wu Weakland & Kirsten Stein. Los Altos Hills Council Chambers, 26379 Fremont Road, Mon.-Fri., Hours: 1-5 PM. **April 11, Sunday,** Art Exhibition Reception, **2-4 PM. All Residents Invited! Information: 941-7222**

April 22, Thursday, Los Altos Chamber of Commerce Business EXPO '99. A Retail, Service, & Professional Trade Fair. 4-7 PM, Hillview Community Center, Public Invited. Call: 948-1455

May 1, Saturday, 10 AM - 3 PM, May 2, Sunday, 12-3 PM, Friends of the Library Used Book Sale, Hillview Community Center

May 15 & 16, Los Altos Rotary Fine Art Show, Lincoln Park.

May 23, Sunday, 1-4 PM, LAH Spring Family Picnic. Pathways Walk at 11:30 AM, Little League Field, Purissima Road.

June 6, Sunday, Art Exhibition Reception, Millie Solomon, Monoprints & Bronzes, 2 - 4 PM, **June 6 - August 27,** Art Exhibition, Los Altos Hills Council Chambers, 26379 Fremont Road, Mon.-Fri., Hours: 1-5 PM. Information: 941-7222.

LOS ALTOS HILLS SPRING FAMILY PICNIC

Mark your calendars now for the Los Altos Hills 1999 Spring Family Picnic to be held on Sunday afternoon, May 23, 1999 from 1 PM to 4 PM at Little League Field on Purissima Road. A special feature this year will be free BBQ dinners — chicken dinners for adults and hot dogs for kids, both including salad, bread, beans and dessert — prepared by the Fire Department and hosted by the Town. Beer, wine and soft drinks will also be provided. Just bring the whole family and a blanket to spread out on the grass of the field!

The picnic promises to be a lot of fun for Town residents of all ages. There will be both adult and child games, with prizes for the winners. Games of horseshoes and softball will also be available. A Fire Engine will be present. Some of the star attractions from the picnic last year, including the String of Pearls band, an Astrojump — a favorite of the kids — **and a Pathways walk at 11:30 A.M.**, organized by the Pathways Committee, will be included in the activities.

The theme of the picnic is "Celebrate your Town." Town residents may learn about and view the Town Parcel Database on a computer that will be operating at the picnic. Town standing committees will have information available on their activities, including information on pathways, art exhibits, and other items of interest to residents.

The event is free to Los Altos Hills residents. However, in order to plan for the dinners, we ask that you reserve in advance. Reservation coupons are available on the flier enclosed with this Newsletter. In addition, reservation coupons will be mailed in April to all Town residents.

Please mail or fax the reservation coupon to Town Hall by Wednesday, May 12th.

So mark your calendars now!
See you all on Sunday, May 23!

LOS ALTOS HILLS TO ESTABLISH NEW PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

On January 6, the City Council decided to establish a new Town Committee that would concern itself with the various public utilities that service the town. A special consideration of this committee will be to look into the possibility of more extensive undergrounding of utilities, but the committee will also investigate improvements and problems with cable TV, sewers, etc. Councilmember Finn agreed to draw up a draft of a mandate for the committee. As soon as the council approves the mandate, applicants will be interviewed and the members of the committee will be appointed. If you are interested in joining this new group, please call Pat Dowd at Town Hall (941-7222).

Pictured above are members of the Community Relations Committee and local residents planning for the 1999 spring Family Picnic.

COUNCIL MEETING NIGHT CHANGED

Please note that effective February 18, 1999 the City Council of the the Town of Los Altos Hills will meet at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber at Town Hall on the **first** and **third Thursdays** of the month.

City Manager's Report

Editor's Note: The City Manager provides monthly updates to the City Council. In an effort to keep residents informed on the current issues in the Town, we shall present excerpts from his report. Please let us know if you find this information helpful.

Personnel

The new Associate Engineer, Ola Balogun, started on February 1. Sheryl Proft will help orient Ola for a number of days in February to familiarize him with the Town's engineering standards and procedures.

Fire Hydrant Flow Testing

Progress has been minimal on this project due to difficulties the Fire Department has experienced in producing a Fire District-wide base map. The map was finally received by the Fire Department on February 1st and has been delivered to the Fire District's consultant who will plot the hydrants.

Sewers

The joint Los Altos Hills/Los Altos sanitary sewer video inspection project was completed and we have received and viewed the videotapes. The most significant problems identified were root intrusions and offset joints in the old vitrified clay pipes (VCP). We have started our sewer maintenance contractor removing the roots. We are quantifying the offset joint problem in order to get a cost estimate for repairs.

Streets

The contract for Traffic Stripes and Pavement Marking is approximately 90% complete. We are continuing our efforts to clear vegetation along Summit Wood Drive. Work should be completed in early February. Due to the poor condition of the street it appears that some major reconstruction will be required.

Sun Country Cable Notice of Sale

The Town has received a notice of the intended sale of Sun Country Cable by Pacific Sun Cable Partners to SunTel Communications, LLC. This sale would involve the transfer of the cable television franchise to SunTel. The Franchise agreement requires that the Town consent to the transfer of franchise.

Staff has received a number of complaints from residents about the service provided by Sun Country Cable in recent months and believes that this may be an opportune time to discuss Sun Country Cable's performance when this item is before the Council.

Public Acceptance of Private Streets

Residents on two streets have requested that the Town accept their private street as a public street without the necessary street repairs first being performed because both streets have special circumstances for their status. Staff has agendized Colina Drive for consideration at the February 3 meeting and Dezahara Way is scheduled to be reviewed at the February 18 meeting.

Quarry Hills Subdivision

The contractor has focused on the installation of drip irrigation, street trees and other landscaping within the street right of way during the month of January. The street signs will be installed next. The residents adjacent to the subdivision who formerly used Stonebrook Drive for access are now using Laura Court. The Town has notified these residents of their new addresses, which are scheduled to become effective April 1.

General Plan Update

The Town now has current updates of the Housing Element (which has State approval), Circulation and Scenic Roadways Element, and Pathways Element. A contract to initiate work on the next phase of the General Plan update (Land Use Element) was approved by the Council on November 4th, and the consultant has been working on background information for that element, pending direction from the Council.

Modifications to Site Development Review Process

The Council subcommittee will meet with staff on Wednesday, February 3rd, for an initial discussion of "enhancements" to the Planning Commission review process, and the outline of a "fast-track" process for certain kinds of projects. This is the follow-up to the Council's January 14th study session.

Packard Property

Staff met with the attorney and other representatives for the Packard Foundation on Monday, January 4th, to consider language for a proposed Code amendment and conditional use permit application. It is the Foundation's intent to use the existing residential facilities for infrequent Board or staff meetings, while maintaining most of the site in open space and agricultural use.

Project Reviews

The following major project applications are pending to be scheduled for Planning Commission and/or City Council review in the coming weeks or months:

a) New residences - 13 applications pending for new residences at: 10475 Albertsworth Lane, 26450 Ascension Drive, 14250 Berry Hill Lane, 25706 Elena Road, 12150 El Monte Ave, 11890 Francemont Court, 27168 Moody Court, 27371 Moody Road, 13828 Moon Lane, 13620 Roble Alto Court, 26870 Taaffe Road, Westwind Way at La Paloma, and 13737 Wildflower Lane. These projects are generally scheduled for February or March Commission (or Site Development) meetings.

b) Landscape screening plan review; 26790 Arastradero Road (Congregation Beth Am); condition requires landscape review by Planning Commission; will not be scheduled until after multi-purpose building is framed.

c) Conditional use permit for two 15-foot high "tree" antennas at 2350 Page Mill Road (CalTrans maintenance yard) by Nextel Communications; to be scheduled at Planning Commission in spring of 1999.

—Jeff Peterson, City Manager

Planning Director's Report

SITE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS REVIEWED

On January 14th, the City Council held a study session at the Bullis Elementary School multi-purpose room to consider alternative ways of reviewing site development projects, particularly new residences and major additions to existing homes. The Council heard suggestions from many residents among the capacity crowd, as well as ideas proposed by Town staff.

The Council decided to establish a subcommittee comprised of Mayor Johnson and Councilmember Casey, along with the Planning Director, to:

1. Develop "enhancements" to the current Planning Commission review process, intended to clarify the scope of the Commission's review and to minimize the extent of "subjective" review. Most of the suggested refinements would focus the Commission's review on siting of structures relative to slopes, trees, and neighbors, and less on design of the home.

2. Prepare an expedited ("fast track") review process for homes which meet all of the Town's codes and which have little or no neighborhood opposition. The subcommittee will be considering what types and sizes of homes to expedite, and what the process of review by staff should look like for such projects.

Mayor Johnson and Councilmember Casey expect to return to the Council in late February or early March with recommendations for changes to the current review process.

If you have any questions regarding the progress of the subcommittee, please contact Curtis Williams, the Town's Planning Director, at (650) 941-7222.

—Curtis Williams, Planning Director

Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

To communicate Los Altos Hills current issues, services, and activities to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government.
The 1999 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December.
Deadline for the next issue is April 30,1999.
Internet Address: www.losaltosonline.com/lah

About Our Publication
The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.
Editor: Dorothy Duffy Price
Associate Editors: Barbara Lamparter, Linda Seidel

Los Altos Hills City Council
• Bob Johnson , Mayor • Elayne Dauber, Mayor Pro Tem
•Toni Casey •Steve Finn • Bill Seigel

Recycled Paper

CELLULAR PHONES - EMERGENCY CALLS - AVOID DELAYS!

Many people are not aware that when they use their cellular phone to report an emergency by dialing 911, their call is not directed to the nearest police or fire agency.

In the Bay Area, cellular phone calls are received by the CHP at their communications center in Vallejo. This may result in a delay in response by emergency services (police-fire-ambulance).

If you have an emergency in Santa Clara County and need to use a cellular phone to contact police or fire, you should dial 1-408-299-3144. This will connect you directly with the Santa Clara County Communications Department who will dispatch the nearest police or fire unit. By dialing directly to 1-408-299-3144, you will reduce the response time by emergency services to your emergency.

If you travel in other Bay Area counties you should likewise obtain the 7-digit emergency phone number for that county.

KEEP THIS NUMBER WITH YOUR CELLULAR PHONE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT PLANNER

"FROM THE FLATLANDS TO THE HILLS"

After spending most of his life in the flatlands of Fresno, Shaunn O'Conner recently joined our Town Hall Planning Department as Assistant Planner. Following Shaunn's graduation from Cal Poly with a degree in City and Regional Planning, he worked for a San Luis Obispo planning consulting firm that was responsible for revamping the Los Altos Hills Circulation Element. When the position of assistant planner opened up (Susan Manca chose to not work full-time once her son was born), Shaunn jumped at the opportunity to work in the hills of the bay area. Shaunn says, " I love the challenge of being able to assist the residents and builders to understand and appreciate the LAH planning ordinances and codes." Additionally, he has applied his considerable computer graphic skills in updating data base information and our handbooks. In his leisure time, he enjoys the outdoors hiking and gardening. Please join us in welcoming Shaunn as a new member of our excellent Town Hall staff.

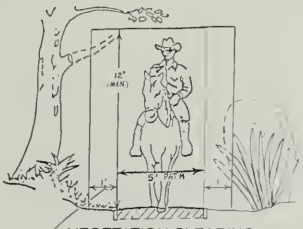
HELP MAINTAIN PATHWAYS!

Our unique pathway system is a treasure that we will pass on to future generations. While we work toward completion of this network of pathways, we must be conscious of maintaining the existing paths. As with our homes, diligence in upkeep helps prevent major problems in the future. Here are some suggestions for pathway maintenance:

Keep Your Paths Clear of Vegetation. This is especially important during the spring growing season. As shown in the illustration, bushes and trees should be cleared to a distance of one foot on either side of the path and to a height of 12 feet above the tread. If necessary, the Town crew will cut back foliage to keep the pathways clear.

Do Not Disk Pathways because the pathway surface becomes unusable for a significant period or time. Disking paths or areas within 5 feet of roads may promote erosion as well.

Place Sprinklers 5 Feet From All Paths. Please be sure that water directly from sprinklers or runoff from sprinkling does not disturb the pathway. If you use plantings to screen your path, select those which do not grow so rapidly that frequent cutting is required.



VEGETATION CLEARING FOR PATHWAYS

CLEAR 1' BEYOND HEADERBOARD OR EDGE OF PATH

With the heavy, persistent rains last winter; some of the pathways were damaged. If you notice problems with the pathways, such as erosion, overgrowth, trees which have fallen on the path, missing sign posts or other, please fill out a Request for Pathway Maintenance form available at Town Hall or call Town Hall at 941-7222. This can often be done with one telephone call.

As good citizens, we have the responsibility to keep our pathways safe and enjoyable for everyone in this community. With your help, we can continue to enjoy our trails.

FIRE HAZARDS

Much of Los Altos Hills has been designated a fire hazardous area. Make sure you use every precaution possible to avoid the spread of fire.

- Remove dead trees and dead wood from all trees
- Remove tree limbs from within 10' of chimneys
- Spark arresters on chimneys are mandatory
- Clear your roadside easements of flammable materials, brush, and weed grass
- Cut your weed grass by July 1st, or sooner.

In fire hazardous areas, the fire department will issue warning on dangerous conditions within 100 feet of any structure on your property. Let's all do our part to have a fire safe community.

GARBAGE OUT - *NOT IN* — LOS ALTOS HILLS

During presentations from the floor at the January 20th City Council Meeting, Sharyn Brown electrified the council when she discussed the deplorable garbage conditions along our roadways. She brought samples of the trash she had picked up along Page Mill Road such as hamburger wrappers, Benson Hedges cigarette packages, Styrofoam cups, etc. Sharyn stated, "After filling up 5 large yard waste bags from only one mile along Page Mill Road, it is clear that we have a problem with garbage in our town."

Sharyn, who is the Chair of the Environmental Design Committee, emphasizes that residents need to be aware that the town only provides limited garbage service for roadside litter pickup - therefore, it is up to each of the home owners to keep the roadways and pathways clean. We can do this by:

- Picking up a little extra litter around and adjacent to our property.
- Bringing a small trash bag and picking up litter when walking the pathways.
- Organizing a clean-up group and "adopting" a Los Altos Hills road to perform litter removal. This might be done through a church group or community organization such as the Boy Scouts.
- Asking day workers not to throw their litter on the roadside.
- Keeping an eye out for graffiti and notifying Town Hall when you see it.
- Reinforcing anti-littering rules to children (especially when waiting at school bus stops).

Sharyn says the Environmental Design Committee would like the Town to consider placing in key locations, tastefully marked signs that say: "THIS IS A LITTER FREE TOWN. $1000 FINE IF CAUGHT LITTERING." What is your opinion? Let us know what you think by completing the resident's reply card on page 6 of the Town Newsletter.

Remember that this is our town. Treat it as if it is your home. Clean up the garbage, even if it's not yours. Working together we can show respect for our environment. Our goal is to keep the GARBAGE OUT *not IN* Los Altos Hills!

THE CITY COUNCIL REVISITS PRIORITIES FOR 1999

Every year, in June, when the budget is approved, the City Council establishes its goals and objectives for the upcoming year. At this time, staff indicates that there are numerous work items that have been added to the original list. To be efficient and effective, the City Council will revisit the list of projects at the February 18th City Council meeting. The June issue of the Town Newsetter will feature the updated list of priorities.

KIRSTEN STEIN'S SCULPTURE

ART SHOW INVITE

THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU
TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING OPENING RECEPTION
AT TOWN HALL
TO VIEW THE ARTWORK,
SOCIALIZE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,
MEET OUR LOCAL ARTISTS,
AND ENJOY MARVELOUS REFRESHMENTS.

RECEPTION
SUNDAY, APRIL 11
2 - 4 PM
MEET KIRSTEN STEIN & ANNA WU WEAKLAND

EXHIBITION DATES
APRIL 11 - MAY 28
MON.-FRIDAY 1 - 5 PM

ANNA WU WEAKLAND

TWO NATIONAL AWARDS FOR THE LOS ALTOS LIBRARY

What a wonderful way to start 1999! Santa Clara County Library System (which includes the Los Altos Library) recently received two national honors. Susan Fuller, County Librarian, was honored as librarian of the year for 1998 by the Library Journal. Her picture was on the cover of the January 1999 issue. "A rare one-two punch of principled integrity and practical political skills makes Fuller a compelling and successful leader against very tough, California-style political odds," the journal wrote. "Her passion for public libraries, however, is barely restrained by her careful listening and deeply thoughtful responses to all comers." The magazine also quoted Fuller on the County Library's commitment to serve: "We try to build commitment - always asking ourselves how we can serve better. We take tremendous pride in doing a good job." ***(Ed. Note: Suggest that you read the article on the web.www.libraryjournal.com)***

A second award by the American Libraries, the magazine of the American Library Association, listed the Santa Clara County Library system seventh among all public libraries in the over 100,000 population category. This list of America's best public libraries in the January 1999 issue was derived from a special rating and evaluation system. The Santa Clara County Library was the only system in California among the top twenty.

For Council Agenda and Minutes, See our Website: www.losaltosonline.com/lah

WHAT'S NEW AT WESTWIND BARN

The people and horses at Westwind Barn are enjoying a relatively dry winter. Westwind is a horse boarding faciltiy, as well as home to a 4H program for teaching physically disabled children to ride. As a community facilty located at the top of Altamont Road, adjacent to the Byrne Preserve, Westwind gives priority to residents of Los Altos Hills for boarding horses. If the current waiting lists are any indication, interest in horses is alive and well in Los Altos Hills. Call new Barn Manager, Lee Anne Kraus for questions on specific special events at 650-941-6113.

Westwind Calendar: May 16 is the 4H/BOK/NCEFT Horse Show and on June 19, Annual Meeting, Friends of Westwind, Inc.

FIREMEN/PARAMEDICS DELIVER HELP FAST

Since when do paramedics ride on fire engines? The Santa Clara County Fire Department has been providing paramedics in Los Altos Hills since January 1998. In the past, firefighters provided basic medical care. When a person's heart stopped beating, firefighters were able to perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), use oxygen, and provide electroshock in an attempt to restore the heart-beat. Now, firefighters/paramedics can also provide advanced medical care, which includes cardiac monitoring, life saving cardiac drugs and intubation (placing a tube in the throat to breathe for the patient). At a time when seconds count, firefighter/paramedics can begin to stabilize a patient five minutes on average before the ambulance arrives in Los Altos Hills. This combined effort by engine-based paramedics and private transport paramedics delivers a high level of medical care with the shortest response time.

Residents' Reply Card

1. Do you have additional suggestions to add to the Garbage Out-Not In LAH article?

2. Do you appreciate receiving the update on what's happening in the Town from our City Manager?

3. Have you attended a Sunday Art Reception? Have you enoyed the exhibits at Town Hall?

4. Are you interested in serving on the new Utility Committee?

We thank you very much!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

(Please cut form along the dotted line, and return to Town Hall: 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills CA 94022)

HIKERS AND HORSES WELCOME!

PATHWAYS WALK SPRING FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, May 23, 1999 11:30 AM

Purissma Little League Field #2

Hikers and horses mutually enjoy the Pathways System in Los Altos Hills. Pictured above are LAH residents Katy Stella (riding her Arabian horse, Dansarra) and John Harpootlian sharing a recent pathways walk.

Town of Los Altos Hills
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, California 94022

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Los Altos, CA
Permit No. 306

LOS ALTOS HILLS

CALIFORNIA

Town of Los Altos Hills Spring Family Picnic

JOIN THE FUN!
Pathways Walk at 11:30 A.M.
Games, Music
Free BBQ

Sunday, May 23, 1999 1 - 4 P.M.

BBQ Chicken & Hot Dog Dinners

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR A DAY ON THE GREEN. BRING YOUR BLANKET AND ENJOY THE GAMES, BASEBALL, ENTERTAINMENT, & GUIDED PATHWAY WALK. WE WILL PROVIDE COMPLEMENTARY CHICKEN DINNERS FOR ADULTS & HOT DOGS FOR KIDS, SODAS, BEER, WINE & DESSERT. BBQ COOKED BY OUR FIREMEN.

PRE-REGISTER FOR DINNERS BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 12.
USE RESERVATION COUPON ON BACK OF FLIER.
LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD
PURISSIMA ROAD
INFORMATION: 650/941-7222